

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 MCE-00 SS-15 OMB-01
IGA-00 TRSE-00 SP-02 L-03 /049 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 901
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6334

CINCPAC FOR POLAD AND COMIPAC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, TH
SUBJ: THAI REQUEST TO PURCHASE WHITE PHOSPHOROUS AND INCENDIARY
MUNITIONS FOR COUNTER-INSURGENCY USE

REF: SECDEF 210017Z OCT 77 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL STATES THAT DEPT OF STATE DISAPPROVED FMS
CASE COVERING SALE OF WHITE PHOSPHOROUS 155MM, 105 MM,
76 MM, AND 2.75 IN. SHELLS AND HAND INCENDIARY GRENADES
ON BASIS THAT REQUEST DID NOT RPT NOT INDICATE ANY
EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES ASSOCIATED WITH NEED FOR THE
ITEM.

2. THAI SUPREME COMMAND WAS INFORMED OF THE DISAPPROVAL
OF THE FMS CASE. GEN. CHAROEN PONGPANICH, CHIEF OF STAFF
OF SUPREME COMMAND, WROTE TO AMBASSADOR FEB 13 AND
DESCRIBED CASE AS FOLLOWS:

QTE: THIS REQUEST IS FOR THE PURCHASE OF WHITE
PHOSPHOROUS AND INCENDIARY MUNITIONS WHICH ARE URGENTLY
REQUIRED FOR CONDUCTING COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS
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IN THAILAND.

QTE: THE WHITE-PHOSPHOROUS MUNITIONS ARE USED FOR
MARKING TARGETS, SCREENING TROOPS, AND TO AID IN NAVIGA-
TION IN JUNGLE AND MOUNTAINOUS AREAS. THE INCENDIARY
GRENADES ARE USED FOR DESTROYING CAPTURED MATERIEL WHICH
CANNOT BE EVACUATED FROM REMOTE AREAS. THEY ARE ALSO

USED FOR EMERGENCY DESTRUCTION OF ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT
EQUIPMENT OR CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS, TO PREVENT CAPTURE
BY INSURGENTS.

QTE: YOUR ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITIOUSLY OBTAINING A
LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE (LOA) (DOD FORM 1513)
FOR THE ITEMS DESCRIBED IN ENCLOSURE 1 WOULD BE GREATLY
APPRECIATED, AS OUR STOCKAGE LEVELS OF THESE ITEMS ARE
FAR BELOW THAT WHICH IS REQUIRED TO CONTINUE EFFECTIVE
COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS. END QTE.

3. COMMENT: THE COMMUNIST-DIRECTED INSURGENCY
CONTINUES TO POSE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS FOR THE ROYAL THAI
GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH IT IS THUS FAR ABLE TO HANDLE THEM
WITH ITS OWN RESOURCES, FOR THE MOST PART. THE ROYAL
THAI GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO NEED EQUIPMENT AND MUNITIONS
FROM U.S. SOURCES TO FIT ITS OVERWHELMINGLY AMERICAN
STOCK OF WEAPONS. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE THAI
REQUEST IS A REASONABLE ONE, GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES,
AND RECOMMENDS THAT THE DEPT APPROVE THE RELEVANT FMS
CASE.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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